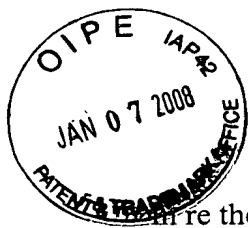


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**PATENT APPLICATION**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Transmit the Application of

Kenji SAMOTO

Group Art Unit: 2861

Application No.: 10/661,545

Examiner: S. FIDLER

Filed: September 15, 2003

Docket No.: 117107

For: CARRIAGE AND IMAGE RECORDING APPARATUS

**RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the December 7, 2007 Election of Species Requirement, Applicant provisionally elects Species IA, with traverse. Applicant asserts that claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10-14, 17 and 19-23 read on the elected species. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 10-14 and 19-23 are generic to species IA and IB.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all species is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one species would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining species. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid

unnecessary delay and expense to Applicant and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Election of Species Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:SQV/hjr

Date: January 7, 2008

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